

### **Remarks**

The following remarks are responsive to the Examiner's rejection in the Office Action dated August 22, 2008.

### ***Status of the Claims***

Claims 1-12, 18, 20-22 are pending. Claims 13-15 and 19 have been withdrawn per election in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled previously, and claim 22 was added earlier by amendment. Claim 1 is amended herein.

Claims 1-12 and 18, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

### ***Amendments to the Claims***

Claim 1 is amended to advance the prosecution by specifying that the second layer consists essentially of a material selected from a colloid-forming polymeric acid, a salt of a colloid-forming polymeric acid, a non-polymeric fluorinated organic acid, and a salt of a non-polymeric fluorinated organic acid, wherein the composition of the first layer and the second layer is different. No new matter is introduced.

### ***Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. 102(e)***

Claims 1-12, 18, 20 and 22 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2004/0102577 A1 to Hsu et al. (hereafter "Hsu").

Hsu discloses PEDT/Nafion® in a device having two buffer layers. The second buffer layer comprises CH8000 which is PEDT/PSSA (Examples 11 and 12). In Example 11, the PEDT/Nafion® layer is in contact with the ITO anode, and in Example 12, the PEDT/Nafion® layer is in contact with the EL layer.

Claim 1, as presently amended, is instructive in that the claims require a composite buffer comprising a first layer comprising at least one doped conductive polymer and a second layer consisting essentially of a material selected from a colloid-forming polymeric acid, a salt of a colloid-forming polymeric acid, a non-polymeric fluorinated organic acid, and a salt of a non-polymeric fluorinated organic acid, wherein the composition of the first layer and the second layer is different. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment introduces "closed" language that precludes the inclusion of materials such as PEDT. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment patentably distinguishes the present claims over Hsu, and that the dependent claims further patentably define over the reference.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants note, with appreciation, that the Office Action has indicated that claim 21, if rewritten in independent form, would be allowable. Applicants wish to defer to rewriting claim 21 pending examination on the merits of the amended claims.

**Conclusion**

If there are any questions about the status of the claims or the contents of this paper, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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